

Among the five persons wounded was Congressman STEVE SCALISE, the Majority Whip, who sustained serious injuries and remains in critical condition.

Our hearts and prayers are with Congressman SCALISE and his family. Our thanks and appreciation go to the first responders who rescued and treated the wounded, and the U.S. Capitol Police officers who subdued the shooter and neutralized the threat of this vicious attack.

Mr. Speaker, the damage from this mass shooting would have been much greater if not for the heroism, courage, professionalism, and skill of the U.S. Capitol Police Special Agents David Bailey and Crystal Griner, who swiftly responded to sound of gunshots and both of whom were struck and injured in the line of duty.

Mr. Speaker, it is no exaggeration to say that political discourse is too charged, too inflammatory, too uncivil these days, and I urge all of us in positions of leadership and influence to exercise calm and restraint and to be mindful of the impact of our words and rhetoric on others.

But we also cannot ignore that Wednesday's attack constitutes the 154th mass shooting in our country since the beginning of the year, or that the too easy access to guns helps to make these terrible attacks possible.

Today, however, is not the day to debate gun violence prevention policy, but the occasion to wish Congressman SCALISE a speedy recovery and a Happy Father's Day: and to hope he will soon be reunited with his wonderful wife Jennifer and their two children, Madison and Harrison.

RECOGNIZING ELENA BOAL

HON. BONNIE WATSON COLEMAN

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2017

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Elena Boal—a remarkable young woman who, this year, received the 2017 Congressional Gold Medal.

A resident of Princeton Junction, Ms. Boal has demonstrated an immeasurable passion for theater and the arts. A crew member for a number of theater productions, buildings sets, and working backstage on shows she has made it her mission to elevate the importance of arts in her own community. She continues to give back to youth that will become our nation's future leaders by volunteering with the West Windsor-Plainsboro Alliance for the prevention of alcoholism and drug abuse and through Urban Promise Trenton serves as a tutor at the Trenton Free Public Library. Her dedication to greater good, devotion to her local community and the improvement of the lives of those around her speak to her character and is to be admired.

While being a pillar of hope and progress for her community—Ms. Boal remained committed to being a well-rounded student athlete as a member of the lacrosse team and skilled sailor, successfully charting a course through the Chesapeake Bay.

Beyond the Congressional Gold Medal Award program, extraordinary individuals like Ms. Boal exemplify the best and brightest of our nation's future. As a resident of New Jer-

sey's 12th congressional district, I couldn't be more proud of her for taking up such a difficult challenge and making a positive change for themselves and their community.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in congratulating Ms. Boal on her amazing accomplishment.

FRANK A. PECORA

HON. MICHAEL F. DOYLE

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2017

Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to former Pennsylvania State Senator Frank A. Pecora, who passed away on June 12, 2017, at the age of 86. He was a dedicated public servant and a wonderful, warm-hearted man. It was my privilege to know him, work with him, and call him a close friend for many, many years.

Frank was born on August 8, 1930, in Pittsburgh to Frank L. and Elizabeth Cristillo Pecora. Frank attended Westinghouse High School and Robert Morris College. He obtained his licenses in insurance and real estate and worked in that field. He served as a Penn Hills Township Commissioner from 1971 to 1975. Frank was then elected as a Councilman-at-Large in 1975 and reelected in 1977.

Soon after I graduated from college, I was elected to serve on Borough Council in my home town of Swissvale. Not long after that, I met Frank, who was a councilman in neighboring Penn Hills and we really hit it off. We both shared a love for the game of golf and we would discuss local government and politics during the many rounds we played together. Frank told me he was considering running for the Pennsylvania State Senate and I was proud to join his campaign team. He was considered a heavy underdog, but his hard work and determination carried the day, and Frank was elected to serve the residents of the 44th District in the Pennsylvania State Senate in 1978.

Frank asked me to join his team and I had the privilege to serve as his Chief-of-Staff for 16 years. It was during that time that I came to really know and learn from this remarkable public servant whose life was dedicated to advocating for the little guy. Sometimes his votes put him at odds with his Senate Leadership, but Frank never flinched. He knew who he came to Harrisburg to represent, and it wasn't the rich and powerful.

Senator Pecora was likeable and approachable. He enjoyed meeting his constituents and learning about their families. When he entered a restaurant, he wouldn't sit down at his table until he had spoken to every person who worked there. He knew their names, he made their concerns his concern, and he fought for them in Harrisburg. He was a man of integrity, compassion and unquestionable loyalty to his family, friends and constituents. In spite of a huge registration deficit, the residents of the 44th District re-elected Frank 3 more times. In 1991, reapportionment moved his Allegheny/Westmoreland district over 200 miles east to Chester County in the middle of his 4th term. Frank was no quitter however, he was determined to keep his seat and serve the people of Pennsylvania's 44th Senate District, wher-

ever its boundary lines were drawn. He rented an apartment in Chester County to serve his constituents, and when the Senate wasn't in session, he and I would drive up to the new district and meet with people in the different communities. In 1992, Frank ran for the U.S. House of Representatives in the 18th District of Pennsylvania. He won a 12-way Democratic primary, but he lost the general election. Frank continued serving his constituents in Chester County until his retirement from the State Senate at the end of his term in 1994.

The only thing Frank loved more than serving his constituents was his family. He was proud of his two children, Frank and Barbara. His wife Barbara was his best friend, his "Bella Mia," and they did everything together. They were married for 60 years and were sweethearts to the very end.

Frank Pecora was a good man. I was proud to know him, learn from him, work for him and love him as a second father. I miss him and think of him often. He and his family will always be in my thoughts and prayers.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2017

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. However, had I been present, I would have voted yea on Roll Call No. 308.

HONORING THE MATTATUCK DRUM BAND

HON. ELIZABETH H. ESTY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, June 16, 2017

Ms. ESTY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Mattatuck Drum Band, which this week commemorates the 250th Anniversary of its founding. This band is our nation's oldest continuously active fife and drum band and is a celebrated institution of our Waterbury, Connecticut community.

The Mattatuck Drum Band was founded in 1767, and over the past two and a half centuries, the band has been an invaluable group in supporting our country's battles and preserving the heritage of our state and country. The band was first formed to play martial music for military training exercises in the towns of Farmington and Waterbury. The fifers and drummers were some of the earliest patriots to join the American Revolution in the spring of 1775, at a time when musicians and drummers were instrumental in maintaining order and routine for military camps.

The band joined many parades in support of President Lincoln's 1860 campaign, and then joined recruiting efforts to support the Union's fight in the Civil War. Almost a century later during World War II, despite gas rationing and the deployment of many members, the band still turned out to play in parades to support our country's service members and maintain solidarity during a difficult time for the country. Today, the dedicated members of the band keep musical tradition alive, and the band's performances are an essential part of our community's celebrations.